

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Claim Objections

The objections to claims 1-6 have been addressed by changing “dealy” in claim 1 to –delay–, as suggested in item 1 on page 2 of the Official Action.

2. Objection to Abstract

The objection to the abstract has been addressed by amending the abstract to be less than 150 words.

3. Rejection Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

This rejection has been addressed by:

- a. amending claim 1 to recite that step (e) occurs after “reading out the time period T_t ” recited in step (d)—the Examiner will note that this limitation was inherent in original 1 since the time period T_t derived in step (d) is used in the equation for T_x recited in step (e);
- b. amending claim 1 to more clearly recite that the time period T_t begins when the second network switch receives the marker from the first network switch and ends when the second network switch transmits the marker and acknowledgement marker back to the first network switch, *i.e.*, the portion of the time period T_i during which the second network switch is generating the acknowledgement marker (in effect, T_i is simply the total round trip time that the first switch has to wait after sending the marker before receiving the acknowledgement, and T_t is the total time taken by the second network switch after receipt of the marker before it sends the acknowledgement back to the first network switch, the difference between T_i and T_t being the total time spent in the transmission line between the network switches);

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- c. amending claim 1, step (e) to positively recite the plurality of channels;
- d. amending claim 2 to refer back to step (b) of claim 1, in which reception of the trunk package by the second network switch is first recited; and
- e. amending claim 3 to positively recite a plurality of nodes n.

4. Drawing Amendments

It is proposed to amend Fig. 4 to correct a typographic error, and to conform Fig. 4 to the description in lines 10-14 on page 5 of the original application, by changing “transmitter” to –receiver– in block 121, and by changing “receiver” to –transmitter– in block 122.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Should the Examiner nevertheless feel that issues remain that could possibly be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at any time to arrange or conduct such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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